

April Newsletter: Recapping the Winter 2018 Semester
Phi Gamma Delta, University of Michigan – Alpha Phi Chapter

A Note From Our President;

Here at 707 Oxford, we are wrapping up an extremely successful year. Our efforts to hold good standing with Nationals and the University have proven to be fruitful, as there have been no issues through our first year on national probation. We had another robust recruitment period, with the Alpha Theta pledge class 12 members strong. Recently, the University has announced that in the coming years, students will not be able to rush Greek organizations until they have accumulated at least 12 credits while enrolled. While this decision will cause change in the structure of the brotherhood, we hope that it will result in new members entering our house with a stronger network in the Michigan community, hopefully resulting in both improved academics and community involvement in the brotherhood.

The brotherhood participated in the annual Winterfest charity event, but suffered a devastating overtime loss in the first round to PIKE. We also hosted our annual event, Freeze the Puck on Cancer, in which we defeated Phi Psi 7-2. Our philanthropy chair has also begun the planning for a new event next year, called Walk a Mile in her Shoes. This will consist of participants walking a mile in women's heels to raise awareness for gender relations and sexualized violence.

Due to a ban of alcohol in the chapter house as a part of our probation, we feared that our long-standing tradition of in-house date parties would come to an end. However, with the aid of our BCA members, John Perry and Joe Bruce, we made a sheet to fill out that includes plans for alcohol free events event and risk management strategies. With this model, we have hosted three alcohol free events at 707 this semester. Our first was a charity concert with a local band, Brother Son, where we raised just over 2,000 for the Valerie fund, which supports comprehensive medical and psychosocial treatment for children with cancer. We then hosted two sober date parties, one of which being islander. All of these events went as planned and would not have been possible without the great work and cooperation of our graduate and advisor boards. Our success has led to other IFC houses adopting the outline we created.

The success of our recruitment, campus involvement, and ability to alter traditional events to adhere to sober restrictions speaks volumes to the resilience and strength of our adaptive brotherhood. As a chapter, we take extreme pride in our evident success this year as we anticipate even more in strong years to come.

-William Godley, Class of 2020.

Events

Freeze the Puck on Cancer

On April 7, 2018 the University of Michigan chapters from Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Pi Kappa Alpha competed in the 4th annual Freeze the Puck on Cancer charity hockey event. All of the proceeds from this event were donated to the American Cancer Society.

In this tournament's main face-off, our Phi Gamma Delta chapter competed against Phi Kappa Psi. After a tight lock at 2-2 for most of the game, goals scored by Fiji's offensive weapons Jon Theros and CJ Ramsdell broke the game open in the third period and propelled the team to a 7-2 victory. Our Phi Gamma Delta team is now 4-0 in this event, winning every year since the tournament's creation four years ago.



In House Events:

The brotherhood is excited to announce that we have held multiple alcohol-free events in the house, with two in-house date parties and one philanthropic concert. We are proud that our model for alcohol-free events was successful and provided an opportunity for the brotherhood to come together in a safe and positive way. Our BCA members were instrumental in providing guidance along the way to ensure the events went smoothly, and we believe our work alongside them this year has created a cohesive relationship that we hope to only further improve in the fall. **Here are some of the events that occurred this past semester:**

Brother Son Philanthropic Concert

On January 27th, 2018, the brotherhood decided to host the Detroit-based band Brother Son in the commons of 707 Oxford. The band is best known for easy, alternative style tunes that are well liked by a lot of the brothers, so it was a great opportunity to get everyone together. Furthermore, we realized the band had a big enough following in the Ann Arbor area to sell tickets, and decided to turn the concert into a philanthropy event. Numerous students from across Michigan Greek life bought tickets and decided to show out, and we ended up raising over \$2,000 to donate to the Valerie Fund. We were excited about executing an in-house concert in an

alcohol-free manner, and we hope this will set a precedent to operate events like this in the future.



In-House Date Party: Big Frat Greek Wedding

On February 16, 2018, the brotherhood held our annual Big Frat Greek Wedding in-house date party. Senior brother Ryan Yeager was “married” to a sorority friend, and the following reception included another appearance from band Brother Son. The entire commons was decorated in a wedding-style fashion, and it was a great opportunity for brothers to dress up and bring dates. An all-around great time at 707!





Fiji Islander Date Party

Our last in-house date party occurred on April 7, 2018. Our Fiji Islander date party was a great success, with the entire commons decked out in tropical and Hawaiian themed decorations. The party included a performance by a local University of Michigan DJ. This year's islander event did not include an open party the following evening, due to assumed complications with security given our sanctions involving alcohol. However, the date party was still an excellent time and arguably one of the most fun events of the year! We look forward to next year's Islander and hopefully we're able to create a plan that would make an open party a possibility and ensure that it is safe and well-organized.

Relay for Life University of Michigan

On April 7th, 2018, our Michigan Fiji chapter partnered up with sorority Sigma Kappa to coordinate a Relay for Life team. Relay for Life is a grassroots, community based-event, where volunteers take turns walking around a track or designated path, and set up an event site with games and activities. All donations from the event go toward the American Cancer Society, and help the organization with cancer research, patient care services, and education and prevention initiatives along with numerous other ventures to help stop cancer. We are proud to announce our Relay for Life partnership with Sigma Kappa this year raised close to \$3,000, and we are excited to participate in this organization next year!

Pig Dinner Alumni Event

On March 24, 2018, we held our 113th annual Pig Dinner at 707 Oxford. The event is always a great chance for the undergraduate and alumni brothers to connect, and this year was exactly the same. We had a great turnout and we were excited to exchange stories about Phi Gamma Delta's

long and outstanding history. We'd like to thank all the brothers who attended this event and hope to see you at our next Pig Dinner in the spring!



New Members of Phi Gamma Delta – Alpha Phi Chapter

This past Winter, the FIJI Alpha Phi Chapter brought in a total of 12 new members in the Alpha Theta Pledge Class (Winter 2018). We feel this pledge class is an extraordinary group of young men with great work ethic, who will continue to impact the house and the university in a positive way. Six members of this pledge class will also be living in 707 Oxford next year, and the total number of residents in the chapter house has increased in comparison to the 2017-2018 year.

New Member Introductions – Alpha Theta's

John Guiragossian

My name is John Guiragossian and I am a sophomore transfer student, from Menlo Park, California. I'm currently on path to be an economics major, but I would like to either major or minor in business. I plan to pursue a career in business, and hope to work in Los Angeles or San Francisco. In my free time I really enjoy playing poker with my friends; most of my friends, from back home, absolutely love a friendly, yet competitive game of Texas Holdem. Additionally, I enjoy working out and staying active, whether it's going to a gym or playing pickup football or basketball with a couple of buddies.

Grant Higgins

My name is Grant Higgins and I'm a freshman from Wilmette, Illinois. I plan on majoring in Public Policy or Political Science with a future concentration in Healthcare Policy or studying

law. I love learning about History and I have taken an interest in African American Studies as a possibly future minor. I plan on joining more clubs in my future at Michigan such as mental health awareness and various social change organizations. I played football, hockey, and lacrosse in high school, so I would like to use every opportunity I can to play sports in college. I am so excited for the rest of college and even more excited to become a FIJI.

Zack Israelit

My name is Zachary Howe Israelit and I am a freshman in the Ross School of Business. I was born in Boston, Massachusetts but moved to the Silicon Valley during elementary school. Next semester I'm planning on rushing a business fraternity as well as joining the IM lacrosse team. After graduation I hope to go into finance (IB) or VC. I'm looking forward to having a fun four years here and spending time with the brothers of Fiji.

Joseph Kopmeyer

My name is Joey Kopmeyer and I am a freshman from Birmingham, Michigan. I plan on majoring in Communications with hopes of pursuing a career in Marketing or Journalism. In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends and playing sports. I play intramural football and I hope to become more involved on campus next semester by looking into clubs related to my major. I'm looking forward to becoming a member of Fiji and am thankful for the opportunity.

Mackenzie Morehead

My name is Mackenzie Morehead. I'm a freshman from Palo Alto, CA studying business with planned minors in computer science and economics. Down the road, I hope to embody the stereotype of Silicon Valley by eventually returning as a Venture Capitalist in the tech space. For the time being, I'll be joining some clubs and playing pick-up basketball. Cannot wait to be a Michigan Fiji.

Alex Munteanu

My name is Alex Munteanu and I'm from Rochester, Michigan. I'm currently a freshman in the Ross School of Business. I'm currently planning on pursuing a career in finance or investment banking. My dream since I was young, however, is to open my own restaurant since I love to cook. Right now, I look forward to golfing over the summer and applying to many clubs next semester. I also plan to build more connections by rushing a professional fraternity. I'm excited to see what Fiji and Ross have in store for me, Go Blue!

Marco Perez

My name is Marco Perez and I'm a freshman from Chicago, IL. I was born in Guantanamo, Cuba and moved to Chicago when I was 7 years old. I plan on majoring in Data Science and I might minor in Computer Science or Spanish. I currently am a part of the Umich Boxing Club Team and hope to stay involved until I graduate. I love staying active and exploring Ann Arbor in my free time. GO BLUE !

Aric Rasmussen

My name is Aric Rasmussen and I am a sophomore from Ann Arbor, MI. I am a Program In The Environment Major (PITE) and earth minor. In the future, I hope to pursue geo science and environmental policy. I recently transferred to the University of Michigan from a small school

called Beloit college where I played on the lacrosse team. I hope to pursue opportunities to play lacrosse on either the club team or in intramural. I am excited to be a wolverine and a Fiji.

Connor Sakis

My name is Connor Sakis and I am a freshman from Birmingham, Michigan. I am majoring in neuroscience and intend to go to medical school. In my free time, I enjoy playing basketball, spending time with my friends and family, and selling real estate. I am very excited to be a Fiji.

Houston Scott

My name is Houston Scott and I'm a freshman from Ann Arbor, Michigan. I'm applying to the program for Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE), and possibly would like to pursue a minor in Chinese. I enjoy traveling and would like to travel more as I advance through my career, and I'm extremely excited to be a Michigan Fiji. Go Blue!

Aryaman Sudhama

My name is Ary Sudhama and I'm a freshman from Hinsdale, IL. I'm majoring in Industrial and Operations Engineering and potentially will pursue a minor in entrepreneurship. I plan on applying to various consulting groups in the fall, as well as the Umich Lean Consortium. In high school I played basketball and I want to be part of an IM team in the fall. I'm excited to be a part of Fiji, go blue.

Brandon Troeller

My name is Brandon Troeller and I'm a freshman from Montclair, New Jersey. I'm planning on majoring in Film and Creative Writing with a minor in either political science or philosophy, all of which I hope to use to try and become a screenwriter or work somewhere else in the film industry one day. I plan on rushing a business fraternity at some point in the future, and I hope to start or become heavily involved with a club for charitable work in the future, for I've helped run a charity for a school in Haiti, called Edeyo, for the past 8 years. I am currently on Michigan's ski team and look forward to competing in more races in the future. I'm excited to be a Fiji, go blue.

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